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THE EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill conducted is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all."

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All orders addressed to the publishers, post-paid, will receive prompt attention.

CHAMOIS HUNTERS.

BY CHARLES SWAIN.

Away to the Alps!
For the hunters are there,
To rouse the chamois,
In his rock vaulted lair;
From valley to mountain,
See! swiftly they go—
As the ball from the rifle—
The shaft from the bow.

Nor chasms, nor glaciers,
Their firmness dismay;
Undaunted they leap,
Like young leopards at play;
And the dash of the torrent
Sounds welcome and dear,
As the voice of the friend
To the wanderer's ear.

They reck not the music
Of hound or of horn—
The neigh of the courser—
The gladness of morn:
The blasts of the tempest
Their dark sinews brace;
And the wilder the danger,
The sweeter the chase.

With spirits as strong
As their footsteps are light,
On—onward they speed,
In the joy of their might:
Till eve gathers round them,
And silent and deep—
The white snow their pillow—
The wild hunters sleep.

[From Gleason's Pictorial.]

THE CAVALRY OFFICER; OR, THE WHITE SATIN DOMINO.

BY LIEUTENANT MURRAY.

THE period of Napoleon's career, when at its zenith, is full of romantic adventures as connected with the history of the officers' lives that served under the great captain. He was quick to observe merit, and prompt to reward it, and this it was that made his followers so devoted to him, and so anxious to distinguish themselves by prowess in battle, and strict soldiery conduct in the emperor's service.

Colonel Eugene Merville was an attache of Napoleon's staff. He was a soldier in the true sense of the word—devoted to his profession, and brave as a lion. Though very handsome, and of fine bearing, he was of humble birth—a mere child of the camp, and had followed the drum and bugle from boyhood. Every step in the line of promotion had been won by the stroke of his sabre; and his last promotion from major of cavalry was for a gallant deed which transpired on the battle-field beneath the emperor's own eye. Murat, that prince of cavalry officers, loved him like a brother, and taught him all that his own good taste and natural instinct had not led him to acquire before.

It was the carnival season, in Paris, and young Merville found himself at the masked ball in the French Opera House.—Better adapted in his taste to the field than the boudoir, he flirts but little with the gay figures that cover the floor, and joins but seldom in the giddy waltz. But at last, while standing thoughtfully, and regarding the assembled throng with a vacant eye, his attention was suddenly aroused by the appearance of a person in a white satin domino, the universal elegance of whose figure, manner and bearing convinced all that her face and mind must be equal to her person in grace and loveliness.

Though in so mixed an assembly, still there was a dignity and reserve in the manner of the white domino that rather repulsed the idea of a familiar address, and it was some time before the young soldier found courage to speak to her. Some alarm being given, there was a violent rush of the throng towards the door, where, unless assisted, the lady would have materially suffered. Eugene Merville offers his arm, and with his broad shoulders and stout frame, wards off the danger. It was a delightful moment; the lady spoke the purest French; was witty, fanciful, and captivating.

"Ah! lady, pray raise that mask, and reveal to me the charms of feature that must accompany so sweet a voice and so graceful a form as you possess."

"You would perhaps be disappointed."

"No, I am sure not."

"Are you so *very* confident?"

"Yes. I feel that you are beautiful.—It cannot otherwise."

"Don't be too sure of that," said the domino. "Have you never heard of the Irish poet Moore's story of the veiled prophet of Khorassan—how, when he disclosed his countenance, its hideous aspect killed his beloved one? How do you know that I shall not turn out a veiled prophet of Khorassan?"

"Ah, lady, your every word convinces me to the contrary," replied the enraptured soldier, whose heart began to feel as it had never felt before; he was already in love.

She eludes his efforts at discovery, but permits him to hand her to her carriage, which drives off in the darkness, and though he throws himself upon his fleetest horse, he is unable to overtake her.

The young French colonel becomes moody; he has lost his heart, and knows not what to do. He wanders hither and thither; shuns his former places of amusement, avoids his military companions; and in short is as miserable as a lover can well be, thus disappointed. One night, just after he had left his hotel, on foot, a figure muffled to the very ears stopped him.

"Well, monsieur, what would you with me?" asked the soldier.

"You would know the name of the white domino?" was the reply.

"I would indeed!" replied the officer, hastily. "How can it be done?"

"Follow me."

"To the end of the earth if it will bring me to her."

"But you must be blindfolded."

"Very well."

"Step into this vehicle."

"I am at your command."

And away rattled the young soldier and his strange companion. "This may be a trick," reasoned Eugene Merville, "but I have no fear of personal violence. I am armed with this trusty sabre, and can take care of myself." But there was no cause for fear, since he soon found the vehicle stopped, and he was led blindfolded into a house. When the bandage was removed from his eye he found himself in a richly furnished boudoir, and before him stood the domino just as he had met her at the masked ball. To fall upon his knees and tell her how much he had thought of her since their separation, that his thoughts had never left her, that he loved her devotedly, was as natural as to breathe, and he did so most gallantly and sincerely.

"Shall I believe all you say?"

"Lady, let me prove it by any test you may put upon me."

"Know then that the feelings you avow are mutual. Nay, unloose your arm from my waist. I have something more to say."

"Talk on forever, lady! Your voice is music to my heart and ears."

"Would you marry me, knowing no more of me than you now do?"

"Yes, if you were to go to the very altar masked!" he replied.

"Then I will test you."

"How, lady?"

"For one year be faithful to the love you have professed, and I will be yours—as truly as Heaven shall spare my life."

"O cruel, cruel suspense!"

"You demur."

"Nay, lady, I shall fulfil your injunctions as I promised."

"If at the expiration of a year you do not hear from me, then the contract shall be null and void. Take this *half* ring," she continued, "and when I supply the broken portion I will be yours."

He kissed the little emblem, swore again and again to be faithful, and pressing her hand to his lips, bade her adieu. He was conducted away again as mysteriously as he had been brought thither, nor could he by any possible means discover where he had been; his companion rejecting all bribes, and even refusing to answer the simplest questions.

Months roll on. Colonel Merville is true to his vow, and happy in the anticipation of love. Suddenly he was ordered on an embassy to Vienna, that gayest of all European capitals, about the time that Napoleon is planning to marry the Archduchess Maria Louisia. The young colonel is handsome, manly, and already distinguished in arms, and becomes at once a great favorite at court, every effort being made by the women to captivate him, but in vain; he is constant and true to his vow.

But his heart was not made of stone; the very fact that he had entertained such tender feelings for the white domino, had doubtless made him more susceptible than before. At last he met the young Baroness Caroline Waldorff, and in spite of his vows she captivates him, and he secretly curses the engagement he had so blindly made at Paris. She seems to wonder at what she believes to be his devotion, and yet the distance that he maintains. The truth was, that his sense of honor was so great, that, though he felt he really loved the young baroness, and even that she returned his affection, still he had given his word, and it was sacred!

The satin domino is no longer the ideal of his heart, but assumes the most repulsive form in his imagination, and becomes, in place of his good angel—his evil genius!

Well, time rolls on; he is to return in a few days; it is once more the carnival season, and in Vienna, too, that gay city.—He joins in the festivities of the masked ball, and what wonder fills his brain, when about the middle of the evening the white domino steals before him, in the same white satin dress he had seen her wear a year before at the French Opera House in Paris. Was it not a fancy?"

"I come, Colonel Eugene Merville, to hold you to your promise," she said, laying a hand lightly upon his arm.

"Is this reality or a dream?" asked the amazed soldier.

"Come, follow me, and you shall see that it is reality," continued the mask, pleasantly.

"I will."

"Have you been faithful to your promise?" asked the domino, as they retired into a neighboring saloon.

"Most truly in act, but alas, I fear not in heart?"

"Indeed."

"It is too true, lady, that I have seen and loved another, though my vow to you has kept me from saying so to her."

"And who is this that you thus love?"

"I will be frank with you, and you will keep my secret?"

"Most religiously."

"It is the Baroness Von Waldorff," he said, with a sigh.

"And you really love her?"

"Alas! only too dearly," said the soldier, sadly.

"Nevertheless, I must hold you to your promise; here is the other half of the ring; can you produce its mate?"

"Here it is," said Eugene Merville.

"Then I, too, keep my promise!" said the domino, raising her mask, and showing to his astonished view the face of the Baroness Von Waldorff!"

"Ah, it was the sympathy of true love that attracted me after all," exclaimed the young soldier, as he pressed her to his heart.

She had seen and loved him for his manly spirit and character, and having found by inquiry that he was worthy of her love, she had managed this delicate intrigue, had tested him, and now gave to him her wealth, title, and everything!

They were married with great pomp, and accompanied the arch-duchess to Paris. Napoleon, to crown the happiness of his favorite, made Colonel Eugene Merville at once General of Division.

THE STUMP-TAIL COW.

A good many years ago, a man stole a cow from Morristown, N. J., and drove her to Philadelphia, for sale. She was a common cow enough, except that she had lost all her tail but about six inches.—The thief fearing that by the shortness of her tail he might be traced, had procured, in some way, probably from a slaughter house, another cow's tail, which he fastened so ingeniously to the short tail, that it was not to be known that it had not regularly grown there.

As soon as the Jerseyman missed his cow, he set off to Philadelphia, thinking she would probably be carried there for sale, and it happened that when he came to the ferry, he got into a small boat that was carrying over his cow, and the fellow who stole her. As it was natural that he should have his thoughts very much upon cows, he soon began to look at this one with great attention. She was, indeed, very much like his cow, he thought.—Her marks agreed wonderfully, and she had exactly the same expression of face, but then the expression of her tail was so very different. It must be supposed that the new owner of the cow felt rather uncomfortable during the examination, for he soon saw this was the person whose property he had stolen, and he was very uneasy lest he should take hold of her tail, which he looked at so continually.

Upon the whole he thought it best to divert his attention in some way, if possible, and therefore steps up to him and says, "Neighbor, that is a fine cow of mine, wont you buy her? you seem to know what a good cow is." Oh, dear me," says the other, "I've just had a cow stolen from me." "Well," says the thief, "I'm sorry to hear that they've got to stealing cattle, but I'll sell off, and you could not better replace your loss than by buying this cow; I'll warrant she's as good as yours!" "Why," says the Jerseyman, "she was exactly like this one, only that she had no tail to speak of, and if this one had not such a long tail, I'd swear it was my cow." Every body now began to look at the cow's tail, but the thief stood nearer to it than any body, and taking hold of it so as just to cover the splicing with his left hand, and with a jack-knife in the right, pointing to the tail, he said, "So if this cow's tail were only this long, you'd swear she was your's?" That I would," says the other, who began to be very much confused at the perfect resemblance to his cow, except in this one particular, when the thief with a sudden cut of his knife, took off the tail just about an inch above the splicing, and throwing it overboard, bloody as it was, turned to the other and said, "now swear its your cow!" The bewilderment of the poor man was now complete, but as he had seen the tail cut off, and saw the blood trickling from it, he could of course lay no claim to the animal from the shortness of the tail; indeed, here was proof positive that this was not his cow, so the thief going over with him, sold the cow without any further fear of detection.

THE TEST TRIP OF THE CALORIC SHIP ERICSSON.

The Washington Republic says:

This ship arrived at Alerandria on Monday afternoon from the mouth of the Potomac, where she had lain at anchor for twenty-seven hours during the late snow-storm and thick weather. Captain Lowber weighed anchor at half past nine o'clock last Wednesday morning at Sandy Hook, and in pursuance of instructions, stood at the east in the face of a strong gale and heavy sea. He kept his course for eighty miles, when the wind shifted to the northwest. He then stood in shore again in the face of the gale. During these two gales the ship stood the test nobly, and though she pitched her bowsprit under water, with her lee-guard immersed, her engines performed with the utmost regularity, the wheels making six turns and a half a minute, with entire uniformity. Not the slightest motion was perceptible in the frame work and bracing of the engines. After the ship and engines were thus fully tested, Captain Lowber shaped his course for the Chesapeake, and in going up by the bay encountered a heavy snow-storm.

On approaching the mouth of the Potomac the weather became so thick that the pilot declined to go further, and the ship came to anchor at ten o'clock Saturday morning. The engines had then been in operation for seventy three hours, without being stopped for a moment or requiring the slightest adjustment, only one fireman having been on duty at a time during the whole trip. The consumption of fuel was under five tons in the twenty-four hours Captain Sands, of the navy, who was on board to witness the performance, is delighted with the result, and says that he would willingly go to Australia in her.—Thus the great principle of the new motor is now a demonstrated reality.

From the Wash. Republic.

THE ALLEGED CAPITOL FRAUDS.

The *Unicn* newspaper has been engaged for several days in the somewhat ardent pursuit of a mare's nest, which he had discovered in the neighborhood of Capitol Hill.

It has published a series of articles containing gross charges deeply affecting the honor of the Administration and the integrity of its *employees* in the matter of the Capitol extension. A Whig friend, somewhat excited by these attacks, expressed great surprise that they were not replied to by the *Rpublic*—as they were directed against the President himself, as well as inferior officers of the Government. We announced that, having no access to the testimony before the committee, we could only defend in the dark; and that, if we only allowed our contemporary a little more rope, he would certainly hang himself. Moreover, as from its facility in walking backwards; the *Union* is evidently of the crab species, we thought we might take a lesson from the fox—of which we are told by an old writer that "the fox catches crab-fish with his tail, which Olaus Magnus saith he himself was an eye-witness of." We were quite sure that some shrewd Democrat would bring the *Union* out of water, before long, in the same fashion.

We reply, then to the *Union*, and its political friends, by copying from that journal of the 18th inst., the following exculpatory article, with the letter of Mr. Stanton (dem.) annexed:

THE CAPITOL ENLARGEMENT.—We publish very cheerfully the following communication from Hon. R. H. Stanton, chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings, in reply to our remarks of yesterday with regard to the alleged fraud and embezzlement connected with the Capitol enlargement. The reader will remember that our remarks were based entirely on a debate in the Senate, and statements made by Senators who had access to the evidence taken before the Senate's committee of investigation. The matter has to go before the House, where it will doubtless be further debated, and the committee of investigation must make its report in a short time. The facts will then be before the public, and the people can judge of them:

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., Feb. 18.

To the Editor of the Union:

Allow me to say a few words in relation to your article on the subject of frauds connected with the Capitol enlargement.—I am sure, sir, that upon better information your sense of justice will prompt you to correct errors into which you have fallen, especially when those errors, unexplained, are calculated to do gross and manifest wrong to the character and standing of highly honorable gentlemen. You say:

"The Deficiency bill brought these frauds before the Senate. That bill appropriates the sum of $400,006 to meet deficiencies in the fund provided for the enlargement, although it appears that when the last appropriation of half a million was made it was intended that no deficiency should be permitted to occur, for it was believed that the expenditure was limited strictly to the sum appropriated. A deficiency of four hundred thousand in an expenditure limited to five hundred thousand dollars—an increase of four fifths over estimates—is a characteristic achievement of Whig administration. Whether it springs from inefficiency or corruption, or both, the effect on the treasury is the same."

Now, sir, it will suffice to say, in reply to this paragraph of your article, that at the beginning of the last session of Congress, December, 1851, the Secretary of the Interior and the architect of the extension sent to Congress their estimates of the amount of money required to carry on the work until the end of the present fiscal year, June 30, 1853—a period of more than a year and a half. The amount asked for was $1,000,000, as will be seen by the report. The subject was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, of which I was, and am the chairman.

In consequence of the hostility which then existed against the work, and the efforts made in some quarters to defeat it, I thought an appropriation of a half million could be carried easier than the amount estimated for; and accordingly, with the assent of the committee, I offered a resolution in the House making appropriation of that sum only. This carried; and instead of a million, which was necessary, there was appropriated only one-half the sum needed to keep the work in progress until the expiration of the present fiscal year. The object for which the four hundred thousand dollars is now asked is to keep open the work in operation until the last of next June. The sum heretofore appropriated is fully exhausted in the purchase of materials and the employment of labor. No debts of any importance are due, either for work, material, or other objects. You will see, therefore, that the *deficiency* to which you refer is not "a deficiency of four hundred thousand in an expenditure of five hundred thousand dollars—an increase of four-fifths over estimates," as you allege; and that the inference you draw therefrom to the prejudice of those having the management of the fund is unjust. If any one is to blame because of the insufficiency of the appropriation to continue the work until the expiration of the fiscal year, it is I, who failed to ask for the full amount estimated for and needed.

You also refer to the charge made in the Senate, and which is said to rest upon the testimony of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, in regard to frauds connected with the furnishing of marble, and say that "by this means it is estimated that sixty-five thousand dollars have been lost to the Government." My official position as chairman of the Committee of the House, having jurisdiction of the subject, has induced me to inquire into this alleged enormity; and having examined the returns of marble delivered, and the payments made to the present day, I am prepared to state that the whole amount paid for marble delivered up to this moment is only $61,-244 51. Your ingenuity will, perhaps enable you to show how under this state of fact the marble contractors have been enabled fraudulently to pocket $65,000 over and above the value of the article, I confess I cannot, by any rule of arithmetic known to me, work out such a problem. The contract affords no such room for so great a "shave," as the marble is paid for, not according to such sizes of blocks as may be delivered by the contractors, but according to the dimensions of each stone laid down upon the plans before the contract was made, and constituting part of the same. The dimensions being thus determined, if the contractors furnished larger stones than those called for by the drawings, they were not paid for the surplus, which you will see is provided in the contract. The architect says that he knows of no stones for which the larger price was paid having been broken up to make smaller ones, and the contractors for cutting the marble assure me that nothing of the kind has been done. The smaller stones at the low price, are often cut up to make up the small features of the work, but the larger ones never. This, with every other part of the work, is in the hands of a sworn measurer, provided for by law, and being independent of contractors. This officer ascertains the quantity of work to be paid for, not by the sizes of the blocks delivered, but by the dimensions provided for in the plans and contract.

My object is not to defend any man who has been guilty of fraud in connexion with the work. If there are such, let them be exposed, and their dishonesty punished.—I simply desire to draw your attention to the character of the testimony upon which your sweeping charges rest, and ask if, where it is susceptible of such easy contradiction, it is just to persist in daily denunciations of men who have not yet been heard in defence of themselves against that testimony, and have never seen a line of it, except as it has been shadowed forth in the newspapers. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. STANTON.

OPENING OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN SILVER MINES.—It is stated that in consequence of the great scarcity of silver coin in the United States and England, arrangements on an extensive scale have been made to re-commence work on the silver mines of South America, with the latest improved machinery; and the Boston Courier says from the richness and inexhaustibility of these sources of precious metal, it would not be at all surprising if in a year or two, if not during the coming season, silver in bars and coin should begin to be sent here in quantities or amount hardly inferior to the vast monthly receipts of gold now flowing from California and Australia into the United States.

THE TEHUANTEPEC CONTRACT AWARDED TO A. G. SLOO.—The steamer Albatross has arrived at N. Orleans from Vera Cruz, bringing as passenger Mr. Albert Spicer, who is bearer of important despatches to Washington, and also of the Tehuantepec contract, which has been awarded in Mr. A. G. Sloo, and upon which $300,000 have already been paid to the Mexican government. Mr. Spicer left the city of Mexico on the 11th instant, on which day commissioners left for the Isthmus to deliver the road to Mr. Sloo. Commissioners had also been appointed on the part of Mexico to treat with Judge Conkling, the American minister, relative to the neutrality and efficient protection of the Isthmus.

WILL HE FACE THE MUSIC?—Archbishop Hughes having intimated in his late letter to the Freeman's Journal that the Roman Catholic Church is not hostile to the circulation of the Scriptures, Anson G. Phelps, Esq., of New York, comes out in a card, offering to pay for the printing of as many copies, in the Roman Catholic, or any other version, as the Archbishop may choose to circulate.

THE DAUPHIN ROMANCE.—The New York Tribune states that Mr. Putnam has received from the Prince de Joinville a reply to the romantic account of his interview with the Rev. Eleazer Williams, lately published in Putnam's Monthly. The nature of the reply is not known. It is said, however, that the Prince meets every point of the Rev. Eleazer Williams' narative, with which he was concerned, and gives his own account of what passed between them.

A singular discovery is given by a Cuban correspondent of the Raleigh Standard.—Dr. Tinsley—an English practitioner of long experience in Cuba, and a graduate of Paris—has discovered, in the course of his practice in cases of small pox, that vaccine virus, after having once passed through a negro's system, becomes useless as a preventative to the white race.

ESSENTIALS TO PRODUCTIVE FARMING.

1. Good implements of husbandry and plenty of them; which should always be kept in perfect order.

2. Deep plowing and thorough pulverization of the soil, by the free use of the drag or roller.

3. An application of lime, marl or ashes where calcareous matter or potash may not be present in the soil.

4. A systematic husbanding of every substance on a farm capable of being converted into manure, systematic protection of such substances from loss by evaporation or waste of any kind, and careful application of the same to the lands in culture.

5. The draining of all wet lands, so as to relieve the roots of the plants from the ill-effects of a superbundance of water, a condition equally pernicious as drought to their healthful growth and probable fructification.

6. The free use of the plow, cultivator and hoe with all raw cultured crops, so as to keep down at all times the growth of grass and weeds, those pests which prove so destructive to crops.

7. Seeding at the proper time, with good seed, and equal attention to time, with regard to the period of working crops.

8. Attention as to the construction and repair of fences, so that what is made through the toils and anxious cares of the husbandman may not be lost through his neglect to protect his crops from the depredation of the stock.

9. Daily personal superintendance on the part of the master, over all the operations of the farm, no matter how good a manager he may have, or how faithful his hands may be, as the presence of the head of the farm, and the use of his eyes are worth several pair of hands.

10. Labor saving machinery, so that one may be as independent as possible of neighborhood help, as a sense of the comparative independence of the employer upon such help begets a disposition of obedience and faithfulness on the part of the employed.

11. Comfortable stabling and sheds for the horses and stock, and all necessary out-buildings for the accommodation of the hands and protection of the tools and implements, as well as for the care of poultry.

12. Clover and other grasses to form part of the rotation of crops, and these to be at proper periods plowed in, to form pabulum for the succeeding crop.

13. The clover fields to be either plastered or ashed each succeeding spring, one bushel of the former and six of the latter per acre.

14. To keep no more stock than can well be kept, but to be sure to keep as many as the farm can keep in good condition, as it is wise policy to feed as much as possible of the crops grown on the farm, and thus return to it that which has been abstracted from it.

HOW TO WEIGH LIVE CATTLE.—This is of the utmost utility to all those who are not experienced judges by eye. By the following directions, the weight can be ascertained within a mere trifle:

Take a string and put it round the beast, stand square, just behind the shoulder blade; measure on a foot rule the feet and inches the animal is in circumference; this is called the girth; then, with the string, measure from the bone of the tail which plumbs the line with the hinder part of the buttock, direct the line along the back to the the shoulder blade; take the dimensions on foot rule as before, which is the length, and work the figures in the following manner: Girth the bullock, six feet four inches; length, five feet three inches—which, multiplied together, make 31 square superficial feet; and that multiplied by 13 (the number of pounds measures less than five in the girth) make 713 pounds. Where the animal measures more than 6 and less than 7 in girth, 31 is the number of pounds to each superficial foot.

Again, suppose a pig or any small beast should measure two feet in girth, and two along the back, which multiplied together, make 4 square feet; that multiplied by 11, the number of pounds allowed each square foot, of cattle measuring less than three feet in girth, makes 44 pounds Again, suppose a calf, a sheep, &c., should measure 4 feet six inches in girth, and 3 feet 9 inches in length, which multiplied together, makes 15½ square feet; that multiplied by 16, the number of pounds allowed to all cattle measuring less than five feet, and more than three in girth, makes 265 pounds. The dimensions of the girth and length of horned cattle, sheep and calves, or hogs may be exactly taken this way when it is at all necessary for any computation or any valuation of stock, and will answer exactly to the four quarters, sinking the offal; and which every man who can get a bit of chalk can easily perform.—*Chambers' Information for the People.*

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL is in perfect order throughout, and business is commencing all along the line. The National Intelligencer says that boats detained below by the winter have returned upwards, and already several cargoes of produce have arrived at market. In a very few days the delivery of coal will recommence, to be, probably, the first fruits of the heaviest coal trade ever done on the canal. We trust the time is not distant when the obstructing bridges in Georgetown will be changed to their proper height.

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